

REMARKS

The above-captioned application is based on an international application, as referenced above. The foregoing amendments are made herein to delete multiple dependent claims, and/or to otherwise conform the claims to a format that is consistent with practice in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and not for reasons of patentability as they relate to the Doctrine of Equivalents. The specification has also been amended to recite the claim to priority.


Original claims 1-13 have been amended. Claims 14-29 are presented herein for consideration. Support for the new claims can be found in original claims 8-13 and throughout the specification, including the figures. Accordingly, Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments presented herein.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

If the undersigned can be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

1/10/2006
Date

Respectfully submitted,


Christine R. Ethridge
Reg. No. 30,557
Customer No. 26,285

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312

Voice: (412) 355-8619
Fax: (412) 355-6501